

FISH CREEK CANYON and its Tributaries of OWL CREEK CANYON and McLEOD CANYON*

Fish and Owl: Source to Mouths, and Lower 5 miles of McLeod

Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values -ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Recreation • Wildlife • Cultural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional • National • Regional • Regional 	Wild

* Fish Creek Canyon Wilderness Study Area, Cedar Mesa ACEC, and Grand Gulch SRMA

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Scenic** – Fish Creek Canyon Wilderness Study Area is a VRM Class II with Class A scenic quality. Fish Creek is roadless, primitive and undeveloped. The unobstructed and expansive diversity of views including the 600 foot high Cedar Mesa Sandstone walls, rim rock, outcrops, spires, pour offs, diverse vegetation, and deep springs with hanging gardens containing the threatened, endangered and sensitive species Kachina Daisy, pools, and flowing water creating good habitat for dace and killifish, are superb.

Owl Creek's high rugged, serpentine, colorful sandstone canyon walls viewed against the diverse vegetation, large springs, hanging gardens, and deep pools of water, create spectacular scenery. The large Nevells' Arch protruding high on the canyon wall, and prehistoric archeological sites viewed from the canyon bottom, add to the outstanding scenic value.

The prehistoric archeological sites associated with the permanent and intermittent flowing water in the canyon bottom, and the large water filled potholes on the canyon rim, add to Fish Creek Canyon's exceptional beauty

- **Recreation** – The ruggedly remote, roadless, primitive Fish Creek Canyon is world renowned for its solitude and opportunities for unconfined recreation. The canyon offers year round visitors the opportunity to hike, camp, and horseback ride through one of Cedar Mesa's most impressive canyons. Fish Creek's high diversity of features including but not limited to outstanding natural history, geological interest, wildlife observations, year round flowing water and large pools, along with historical and cultural site exploration, are key values that attract the recreational user.

The Wilderness Study Area access is limited to foot travel from two trailhead entries, and to limited horse travel from the mouth to the mid reaches of the canyon. Due to high demand, there is an allocated permit system in place, which limits backcountry overnight use, thereby providing the visitor with more of a wilderness experience.

- **Wildlife** – Fish Creek, Owl Creek, and McLoed Canyon all provide excellent habitat for several wildlife species. These canyons provide prime breeding habitat for Mexican spotted owl and potential habitat for Southwestern willow flycatcher. Peregrine falcons are known to nest in these canyons and black bear are commonly seen throughout the area. These canyons also provide habitat for migratory neo-tropical birds.
- **Cultural** – The cultural resources located here are well preserved prehistoric occupations, special activity locations, and rock art. They are usually located in alcoves, but are sometimes found on the benches along the bottom of the canyon. They are of regional significance because of the scientific information they contain, the fact that they are well preserved, and for their recreations attraction.